

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 454
By Bryson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Jerry Chesnut for his remarkable songwriting career.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Jerry Chesnut, who, through his artistic and prolific composition of country songs, has led us to greater depths of humanity and a fuller experience of life; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Harlan County, Kentucky, Jerry Chesnut grew up among coal mines, guitars, and radios tuned to the Grand Ole Opry broadcasts; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from high school, Mr. Chesnut enlisted in the United States Air Force, serving with great valor in the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, as Jerry Chesnut was discharged honorably, he settled in Florida, where he performed on local radio stations and served as a conductor for the Florida East Coast Railway System; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, Mr. Chesnut made the legendary trek to Nashville to pursue a career in the music industry, and nine years later, his name approached the top of the charts when Del Reeves released the Chesnut classic “A Dime at a Time”; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Chesnut’s music first claimed Billboard’s number one slot with Jerry Lee Lewis’ rendition of “Another Place, Another Time”; and

WHEREAS, over the next few years, Mr. Chesnut dabbled in various aspects of the music industry, signing an artist contract with United Artist records and appearing as a regular on the *Hee Haw Show*, but while he enjoyed success in these endeavors, he eventually sought to reclaim his first love: writing country songs; and

WHEREAS, as such, Jerry Chesnut purchased a building in the heart of Music Row and focused on writing and pitching the songs that have since become Music City favorites; and

WHEREAS, through the late sixties and early seventies, Jerry Chesnut was regarded as Nashville’s most versatile and productive songwriter, averaging the licensed release of 50 recordings per year; and

WHEREAS, in one week, five of Mr. Chesnut’s songs were ranked on the Billboard National Chart, and an astounding three of these hits secured top-ten spots; and

WHEREAS, among the many beloved country hits penned by Jerry Chesnut are “A Good Year for the Roses”, “Four in the Morning”, “Oney”, “They Don’t Make ‘Em Like My Daddy”, “Lookin’ at the World Through a Windshield”, “T-R-O-U-B-L-E”, “The Wonders You Perform” and other songs recorded by such greats as George Jones, Alan Jackson, Lorrie Morgan, Johnny Paycheck, Elvis Costello, Faron Young, Johnny Cash, Loretta Lynn, Del Reeves, Ferlin Husky, Commander Cody & His Lost Planet Airmen, Son Volt, Bill Anderson, Eddy Arnold, Bill Carlisle, Little Jimmy Dickens, Charlie Louvin, Dolly Parton, Elvis Presley, Hank Snow, Travis Tritt, Tammy Wynette, and Porter Wagoner; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards or accolades, Mr. Chesnut has received dozens of BMI Awards, 2 ASCAP Awards, 2 Grammy Nominations, numerous Gold Records, and several

Platinum Records, has been named Songwriter of the Year and International Writer of the Year, and has been inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Foundation Hall of Fame and the International Songwriters Association Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, because of his remarkable influence on the country music industry, Jerry Chesnut's legacy is not to be underestimated; this exceptional man truly holds a place in the heart of our State and nation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chesnut is most grateful to share both love and companionship with his wife of 19 years, Pat Chesnut, who has served as his Secretary for many years and has helped him build Jerry Chesnut Music; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Chesnut epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud this great artist for his manifold and momentous professional accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Jerry Chesnut for his remarkable songwriting career, extending to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.